

SHORT BIOGRAPHY - Dr. Mihály Ficsor

Dr. Mihály Ficsor is a national of Hungary.

From 1966 to 1968, he was **judge** at the *Central District Court* of Budapest, and, from 1969 to 1975, he was **Section Head** at the Codification (Law-drafting) Department in the *Hungarian Ministry of Justice*.

In 1975, Dr. Ficsor became **Deputy Director General**, and, in 1977, **Director General** of the *Hungarian Copyright Bureau* working also as the Hungarian authors' society (ARTISJUS). In the latter capacity, he served until May 1985, and was also a member, and, during the last four years, the **Vice Chairman, of the Executive Bureau** of the *International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)*.

Between 1985 and 1999, Dr. Ficsor worked, first, as **Director** and, then, from 1992 as **Assistant Director General** of the *World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* in charge of copyright and related rights. He was responsible for a great number of important projects. *Inter alia*, he is recognized as having played **the most important role in the preparation, negotiation and adoption of the so-called „Internet treaties:” the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)**.

At the *World Trade Organization (WTO)*, Dr. Ficsor has been a member of a panel in one of the most important intellectual property disputes (between the European Union and Canada), and, in another dispute (between the United States and Japan), the parties reached agreement in the consultation phase on the basis his expert opinion.

Dr. Ficsor has served as **short-term expert** in various *Phare, Tacis, Taiex, Cards, IPR2-EC-China, IPKey for China* and other intellectual property (mainly copyright-related) **projects** of the European Commission, in the Russian Federation, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Croatia, Georgia, Serbia, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Albania, Azerbaijan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and the Turkish Community of Northern Cyprus.

At present, Dr. Ficsor is **Member of the Board and Honorary President** of the *Hungarian Copyright Council* (a 200 member advisory and arbitration body **appointed by the Minister of Justice** and **linked to the National Intellectual Property Office**), **Honorary Chairman** of the *Hungarian Copyright Association*, **Member of the Executive Committee** of the *International Intellectual Property Association (ALAI)*, and **Chairman** of the *Central and Eastern European Copyright Alliance (CEECA)* with permanent observer status at WIPO.

Dr. Ficsor was the **Chairman of the UNESCO Working Group** preparing the draft *UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Diversity* adopted in 2005 and entered into force in 2007.

Dr. Ficsor holds a **doctor's degree in law** and political sciences from the Law Faculty of the *Eötvös Lóránd University of Budapest*. He has written numerous articles and books on various copyright issues, particularly on the impact of new technologies (especially digital technology and the Internet) on copyright and on collective management of copyright and related rights, and participates in a number of seminars, symposiums, workshops as a speaker throughout the world. He is also the **honorary professor** of the *University of Alcalá*, Spain, and has been guest lecturer at several universities in various countries.

His recent books are as follows:

- “*The Law of Copyright and the Internet – The 1996 WIPO Treaties, their Interpretation and Implementation*”, Oxford University Press, 2002.
- “*Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights*”, WIPO publication, 2002.
- “*Guide to the Copyright and related Rights Treaties Administered by WIPO and Glossary of Copyright and Related Rights Terms*”, WIPO publication, 2003.
- “*Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights*,” (as co-author), Kluwer Law International, 2010.
- “*Copyright Enforcement and the Internet*,” (as co-author), Kluwer Law International, 2010.
- “*Copyright in the Information Society – Guide to National Implementation of the European Directive*,” (as co-author), Edward Elgar, 2011.
- “*International Copyright Law and Practice*” (as co-author of the annually upgraded two-volume book), Matthew Bender – LexisNexis, 1993-2014.